

No. XXI.—VIVIPAROUS HABIT OF THE FALSE HIMALAYAN
VIPER (*PSAMMODYNASTES PULVERULENTUS*).

A nice female specimen of this snake caught in Dibrugarh was brought to me on the 6th of May. It appeared to me obviously gravid, and was kept in anticipation of future events.

I have been mistaken so frequently in my diagnosis of pregnancy, finding in some specimens the obvious distension due to nothing but fat, or in other cases to masses of tapeworms, that as time went by and the specimen refused food, and looked thinner, I resolved to convert it into a Museum specimen, and she was consigned to the spirit bottle on the 6th July.

On cutting her open to my great disgust I found 3 fully formed young in the abdomen, and 3 unfertilised eggs.

The young were so far developed that I think it extremely likely they would have been born within a very few days.

They were perfectly formed, in colour they were as well marked as the mother, and they were perfectly ready to cast their skins as these peeled off with ease. Added to this it was very apparent that the embryo nearest the cloacal opening had struggled within the mother in a vain endeavour to escape when the mother was drowning.

I believe it is not known that this species is viviparous.

The young I could not sex with certainty. They were examined in other respects however successfully. The eye was very large, being in its horizontal diameter one-third longer than its distance to the end of the snout.

No. 1.—Length 5''; ventrals and subcaudals 169+59; 22 intervening between the navel and the anal. Loreal divided $\frac{1}{2}$.

No. 2.—Length 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ '' ventrals and subcaudals 167+60; 21 between navel and anal.

No. 3.—Length 5 $\frac{1}{4}$ '' Ventrals and subcaudals 168+67; 23 between navel and anal.

This last was a light specimen. It had two lateral light bands, the upper involving the 4th, 5th and lower half of the 6th rows above the ventrals, the lower edge of the ventrals, and the lower half of the ultimate costal row. A narrow postocular oblique streak on the temples. A dark narrow subterminal ventral line on each side of the belly.

The mother measured 1 foot 9 inches, of which the tail was 4 $\frac{1}{4}$ inches.

The ventrals and subcaudals were 169 + 64.

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DIBRUGARH, ASSAM,

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